

PATENT *Ref*  
*FW*

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Steven G. Fry, Shantanu Sarkar  
Assignee: Cisco Technology, Inc.  
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS SUPPORTING NETWORK  
COMMUNICATIONS THROUGH A FIREWALL  
Serial No.: 09/456,692 Filed: December 9, 1999  
Examiner: Carl G. Colin Group Art Unit: 2136  
Attorney Docket No.: CIS0044US

Austin, Texas  
August 6, 2004

MAIL STOP RCE  
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P. O. BOX 1450  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)**

Dear Sir:


This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application. Please consider and enter the Preliminary Amendment, which is being submitted with this request.

The RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is authorized in an accompanying transmittal letter. Applicants respectfully request issuance of a Notice of Allowance in light of the Preliminary Amendment which accompanies this RCE.

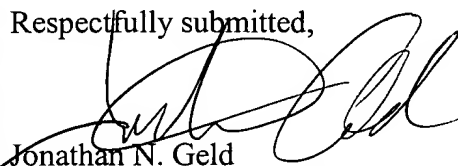
Please contact the undersigned attorney with any questions concerning this request or the above-identified patent application.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 6, 2004.

  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

  
Date of Signature

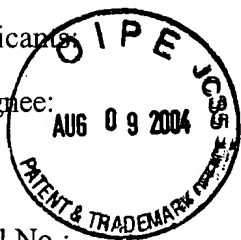
Respectfully submitted,

  
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Washington, D. C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND REMARKS**

Dear Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Advisory Action dated July 2, 2004, and the Final Office Action dated March 11, 2004, having a shortened statutory period set to expire June 11, 2004. Accompanying this response is a two-month Petition Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for Extension of Time, setting a new time for response to September 2, 2004.

The following Amendments and Remarks are submitted for entry along with the accompanying Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. Further examination and consideration are requested.

**Amendments to the Specification.** No Amendments to the Specification are presented in this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Drawings.** No Amendments to the Drawings are presented in this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 13 of this paper.